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HOUSE RESOLUTION 152  
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend Sara L. Lewis, Director of the  
Shelby County Head Start, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor those dedicated and gifted Tennesseans, who, in their chosen professions, have made significant contributions to their communities and to the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Sara L. Lewis of Memphis, who has served as the director of the Shelby County Head Start, Inc. since September 1998, is assuredly one such outstanding Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lewis received a Bachelor of Arts degree from LeMoyne College and a M.Ed. degree in Elementary Education from Memphis State University, in preparation for a career in education; and

WHEREAS, rising quickly through the teaching ranks, Sara Lewis served as principal of Lauderdale Elementary School in Memphis from 1974-83. In 1983, she became Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for the Memphis City Schools, where she served until 1990; and

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WHEREAS, in 1990, Ms. Lewis became the Executive Director of Free The Children, Inc., a 501(3)(c) corporation chartered in Tennessee for the purpose of attacking the root causes of poverty; she held that position until September 1998 when she assumed her present role as Head Start Director; and

WHEREAS, Sara Lewis has employed her considerable professional talents through her service as the Memphis City School's representative on the Time For Results Project, cosponsored by the National Governor's Association and the U. S. Department of Education; initiation of efforts to secure a grant that led to the creation of the Memphis Youth Initiative; service as a presenter to the New York State Legislative Committee on Science and Technology for three consecutive years; service as co-director of the MEA/NEA Learning Laboratory, creation of "A Dime's Worth of Difference," a county wide United Way youth philanthropic and volunteer program; initiation, coordination and development of the Young Entrepreneurial Development Program for Disadvantaged Youth; initiation of the Memphis City Schools Professional Assessment, Development and Enhancement Center; advising and assisting residents in the development of ROD (Reclaim Our Development) in the Dr. W. P. Hurt Village; facilitating the development and implementation of a process for ensuring that the availability of Housing and Community Development funds targeted for the Klondike community were disseminated widely; and facilitating the development of a plan for expediting the process for approving HCD funds for FTC target area residents eligible for low cost/no cost loans and grants for home repair and renovation; and

WHEREAS, during her career as a teacher and school administrator, Ms. Lewis was a member of the Tennessee Elementary School's Committee of the Commission Elementary Schools Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; member of the Tennessee Education Association Board of Directors; member and recording secretary of the Memphis Education Association Board of Directors; and member, treasurer and president of the Memphis Principals Association. She is currently a member of the United Way of the Mid-South, Family Services of

Memphis, Community Health Agency, Memphis Center for Urban Partnership, Mid-Town Mental Health Agency, Project Success Coordinating Council and Youth Fair Chance/Youth Opportunities Unlimited National Network; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her considerable professional endeavors and authorship, Sara Lewis has served her community with distinction as a member of the Memphis City Schools Board of Education for terms beginning in 1991, 1996 and 1998; as a member of the Board of Directors of Memphis Community Singers, Inc.; as a member of the Board of Directors of United Way of Greater Memphis; as a member of the Board of Directors of Memphis in May; as Commissioner of the Private Industry Council and Chair of the Planning Committee of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth; as a member of the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement of Memphis; as a member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Literacy Council; as a member of the Board of Directors of Leadership Memphis, as a member of the Board of Directors of Memphis Museum Systems, and as a member of the Fire Prevention Safety Committee of the Memphis Fire Department. She is currently a member of Vice President Albert Gore's Tennessee Family Reunion Steering Committee, the Memphis National Center of Urban Partnership and the Task Force on the African American Male Crisis; and

WHEREAS, she has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Tennessee Education Association's Susan B. Anthony Award for outstanding leadership in support of issues affecting women, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's Outstanding Service Award, the Outstanding Services to the North Memphis Community Award, and the Memphis Minority Business Development Center's Organizational Advocate Award in 1992; the Simply the Best Award for a Nonprofit Agency and the Outstanding Alumnus for Instruction and Curriculum Leadership from the University of Memphis in 1994; the University of Memphis Distinguished Alumni Award, the Memphis Education Association Friend of Education Award, and the Budweiser Strong Achiever Award from KJMS 101-FM in 1995; and the *Washington Times*

Foundation's American Century Award and the Tennessee Black History Celebration, Inc.'s Guardian Award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the many accomplishments and contributions of Sara Lewis to her profession, the community of Memphis, especially its children, and to the state of Tennessee are awe-inspiring and worthy of our unstinting praise and profound thanks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we commend Sara L. Lewis for her outstanding record of professional achievement and her selfless and untiring contributions to the citizens of Memphis and of the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.